

Participants

Edward Alexander

Edward Alexander is Co-Chair of Gwich'in Council International and serves as Head of Delegation to the Senior Arctic Officials, and Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response working groups. He has served in a variety of leadership roles over the past twenty years, including as the 2nd Chief of the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in. He loves to be on the land in Gwich'in country, fishing, hunting, and exploring cultural sites. Edward has a Master's Degree in Secondary Education, and fought wildland fire for 8 seasons to put himself through university. He worked as a secondary teacher, principal, in administration, and at the University of Alaska Fairbanks managing the Yukon Flats Campus. Most recently, he served as the Education Director for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, which works for 37 Federally Recognized Tribes. He is active on many boards and committees primarily focused on issues of Gwich'in language revitalization, education, and social and environmental justice.



Jennifer Barnes

Jennifer started in fire in 1989 as a seasonal with the Flathead National Forest in Montana. In 2002 she began as the Regional Fire Ecologist for the National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Region and developed a science-based program to guide Alaska NPS fire and fuels management planning, decisions, and practices. The program combines monitoring, research, and technology to provide effective feedback for the fire and fuels management program. Specific areas of studies: fire effects (vegetation, fuels, permafrost), fire history, repeat fires, fire behavior, burn severity, and fuels treatment effectiveness. Strong interest in climate change planning. Work includes studies across the state of Alaska – boreal and tundra ecosystems.



Carson Baughman

I am a geographer at the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage, Alaska. My work primarily focuses on land surface change detection within Alaska via remote sensing. My research interests are broad and include landscape modeling via GIS, restoration ecology; Great Basin, Boreal, and Arctic ecosystems, terrestrial plant ecology, wildlife management, and species/habitat conservation.

**Mark Bertram**

Hi there, I was born and raised in Missouri and grew up very active in the outdoors-hunting, fishing, and camping. My family roots are in Germany, my great grandfather immigrated to the US in 1854. After high school I received a degree in wildlife biology and moved to Alaska in 1986 and started working for the National Wildlife Refuge System. I have worked as a wildlife biologist out of both Galena and Fairbanks and have been with the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge since 1993. The Yukon Flats has been a fascinating place to work because of the pristine and intact landscape, and the interesting people that live on the land. I have spent most of my career designing surveys, counting animals, and studying how they interact with each other and people. The Yukon Flats is a special place to work and I am truly blessed with having spent my career working on it.

**Ed Christopher**

Ed Christopher is the Deputy Fire Director (Management) for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) based out of the National Wildlife Refuge System Headquarters in Falls Church, VA. Ed has been with the Service for almost 11 years. Prior to joining the Service Ed worked for the North Carolina Forest Service for nine years and was with the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service for five seasons between South Dakota, North Carolina and Virginia. Ed holds a Master of Science in Forest Management and Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech.



Abe Davis

Abe Davis, Fire Management Officer for the Upper Yukon Zone with the Alaska Fire Service. I began my fire career in 1998 and since then have worked in a variety of different positions. I am a current member of the Alaska Incident Management Team. I feel fortunate to live, work, and play in this great state of Alaska.

**Christopher Demers**

I have worked in the wildland fire service going on nineteen years, seventeen of which at the BLM- Alaska Fire Service, primarily serving on and supervising one of the three Interagency Hotshot Crews located in Alaska. I have recently transitioned into a Fuels Management Specialist position where I am focusing on Wildfire Risk Assessments, Community Wildland Fire Protection Plans (CWPP) and fuels management projects for remote communities located in the Alaska Fire Service - Upper Yukon Zone. My favorite and one of the most amazing locations in Alaska is the confluence of the Salmon Trout and Porcupine Rivers in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

**Jeremy Douse**

Jeremy Douse is the Northern Regional Forester for the Alaska Division of Forestry. Jeremy started his career in 1998 as a seasonal fire fighter for the USFS in Colorado but has worked as a forester in Interior Alaska since 2002. Jeremy lives in Fairbanks with his wife and daughter. Jeremy can be reached at Jeremy.douse@alaska.gov.



Scott Goetz

Scott Goetz, Professor at Northern Arizona University, has conducted satellite remote sensing research over the past 30+ years and served on working groups for the IPCC, UN programs on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), the US Global Change Research Program, the US National Academy of Sciences, and interagency programs on carbon cycle science, climate change and terrestrial ecology. He has authored 200+ publications cited 30,000+ times and is an ISI/Thompson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher in the Cross-Field (interdisciplinary) category. He is Science Lead of NASA's [Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment](#) and Deputy principal investigator of NASA's [Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation](#). He has mentored dozens of early career scientists and graduate students, is an executive board member of *Environmental Research Letters*, past Deputy Director of the Woods Hole Research Center, a Fulbright Research Scholar (France) and past associate editor of *JGR Biogeosciences* and *Remote Sensing of Environment*.

**Randi Jandt**

Randi has 30 years field experience in Alaska as a fire ecologist, wildlife biologist and sometimes firefighter. She enjoys engaging research groups from all over the country & fire management agencies in Alaska to facilitate "fire science we can use". Recent focus areas involve the effectiveness of fire fuels breaks in boreal forest (2019 JFSP Final Report), application of new remote sensing products in fire management, and how climate warming is changing fire regime, tundra, and forests in northern latitudes.



Bob Narus

Bob Narus is currently the Regional Fire Management Coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He has served in this capacity since September 28, 2020. His previous fire positions include Fire Management Officer for the Vale BLM, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist, Engine Captain, and Crewmember for the Boise BLM, Heli-rappeler and Engine Crewmember for the Boise National Forest. Bob earned a Master of Public Administration, emphasizing in Natural Resource Policy and Administration in 2001 and a Bachelor of History/Secondary Education in 1995, both from Boise State University. Bob is originally from the Pittsburgh, PA area. He has a son and daughter with his wife Karen.

**Clinton Northway**

Fire Management Specialist Tanana Chiefs Conference
Provide professional and technical assistance in Wildland Fire Mgmt. to the 42 federally recognized tribes of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Region. Duties included but not limited to, Employment and Training, Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects, Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan preparation, and member of the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. Prepared and implemented professional service contracts, Memorandum of Agreements, with State, Federal and Tribal entities in Alaska. Educate member tribes of the Alaska Interagency Fire Mgmt. Plan and provide technical assistance in implementing actions as a jurisdictional agency member. Started A Type II Wildland Fire Crew of Tanana Chiefs employees.

**Tom Paragi**

Tom Paragi has been a wildlife biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Fairbanks since 1999. His work with ADF&G has included habitat and predator management, fire ecology, and logging practices in boreal forest. His professional experience in Alaska during 1985-1998 was with wildlife-habitat relationships on the Chugach National Forest and on several national wildlife refuges in coastal, boreal, and arctic ecosystems.



Allison Mulligan

I'm Allie Mulligan, Assistant Refuge Manager at Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge as of August 2020. I attended North Carolina State University for my Bachelor of Science in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology and East Carolina University for my Doctor of Philosophy in Coastal Resources Management. Before working for Yukon Flats, I most recently served as the District Resource Specialist for a Soil and Water Conservation District in North Carolina.

**Eric Miller**

Fire ecologist with the BLM Alaska Fire Service. Current projects address post-fire vegetation succession in tundra and fire effects monitoring in lowland black spruce forests.

Neal Pastick

Neal Pastick is a Research Physical Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center and a Ph.D. graduate from the Natural Resources Science and Management Program at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. He has conducted remote sensing research for environmental science applications over the past 11 years, with an emphasis on characterizing changing aquatic and terrestrial landscapes through the assimilation of field observations (e.g., ground-based geophysical surveys), remote sensing, and artificial intelligence/machine learning [AI/ML]. Recently this research has focused on investigating the effects of climate and disturbances on hydrology and vegetation across the northern circumpolar, the spread of invasive annual grasses in rangelands of the western United States, and the distribution of soil properties and conditions in Alaska and beyond. His employment as an offsite contractor to the USGS EROS has been supported by projects funded by NASA's Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE) and the USGS Biological Sequestration, National Land Imaging, and Land Change Science Programs. He has published over 20 referred publications and has contributed to some 35 presentations given at scientific meetings. His research has been covered by numerous news agencies (e.g., the Guardian, the Washington Post, the New York Times) and popular magazines (e.g., Scientific American).



Darcy L. Peter

Woodwell Climate Research Center, Environmental Scientist and Alaska Native advocate Ms. Darcy Peter supports the Polaris Project under Dr. Sue Natali. Her research primarily focuses on climate induced greenhouse gas emissions, permafrost thaw, and Arctic ecology. Ms. Peter is Gwich'in Athabascan from Beaver, Alaska located along the Yukon River. She grew up living a subsistence way of life: fishing, hunting, and trapping in Beaver. Since graduating from college in 2017, Peter has worked for Alaska Native non-profits in environmental science, policy, and social science. She has an in-depth understanding of Arctic policy, and is actively engaged in multiple boards that advocate for traditional subsistence practices throughout the state. Ms. Peter is a firm believer that all research, if properly communicated to locals and policy-makers, has the power to induce change. Her current work is focused on serving as a bridge between Western science and local tribes/government officials via science communication. In her free time, Ms. Peter enjoys traveling, spending time with family, and practicing her traditional cultural ways on the land in Alaska.

**Brad Reed**

Brad Reed- Deputy Regional Fire Management Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service- National Wildlife Refuge System, Alaska Region Office Brad started his federal career in 1990 as a Stand Exam crew member on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington State. The busy fire season of that year effectively ended his career as a botanist and triggered his entry into full time fire management. After working as a brush disposal crew member, Hotshot, and Fire Use Module leader, he spent 4 years as the Fire Management Officer (FMO) at Crater Lake National Park. During his tenure, he helped the park move from small prescribed fires to landscape-scale prescribed fire and fire use application. Brad moved to the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2009 as the Alaska Region Fire Management Specialist (fuels/fire use) and in 2017 assumed the duties of Deputy Regional Fire Management Coordinator. Brad holds a Forestry Technology degree from Centralia College and a Bachelor of Science, Forest Ecology and Policy Analysis from the Evergreen State College. His current fireline qualifications are Firefighter type 2 (FFT2), Advance Faller (FAL1), Fire Behavior Analyst (FBAN), Long Term Analyst (LTAN), Strategic Operational Planner (SOPL), Prescribed Fire Burn Boss type 2 (RXB2), Incident Commander Type 3 (ICT3) and Operations Section Chief type 2 (OSC2).



Kent Slaughter

Kent Slaughter has been the BLM Alaska's Deputy State Director of Fire and Aviation and Manager of the Alaska Fire Service since 2011. He spent most of his career in Alaska, with a two-year detour to Oregon with the US Forest Service. He earned a Masters in Forestry from the University of Minnesota and Bachelors in Soils from Montana State University.

Heidi Strader

Heidi Strader received her Bachelor of Science in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Science and Master of Science in Meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994, having attended on an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship. She was commissioned and sent to Alaska as a meteorologist for the United States Air Force, providing aviation and staff weather briefings at Elmendorf AFB. In 2000, she entered the civilian world and began working for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), first in developing a forecasting curriculum for new military weather personnel in Alaska, then as the Launch Weather Officer at the Kodiak Launch Complex. Sometime in there, she found time to earn her Master's in Environmental Quality Science from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. In 2005, wanting to use that degree, Heidi went back to government service working for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in the Air Quality Division, to develop a smoke forecasting program for the entire state, with a focus on wildfire smoke. In 2008, she moved to Fairbanks to enter the world of Fire Weather Forecasting, job-sharing the position of Fire Weather Program Manager at the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center. This position has sparked her interest in the causes and the effects of climate change, particularly those observed and expected in the high latitudes. Heidi likes the long Fairbanks winters and living off-grid. Her hobbies include downhill and cross-country skiing, hiking, rafting, volleyball, splitting wood, and conversing with her many animals. As an active member of the National Ski Patrol, she keeps her teaching skills tuned up by instructing both toboggan and basic medical training each winter.



Ella Wagener

Ella Wagener is currently a Natural Resource Policy Advisor for Headquarters of the National Wildlife Refuge System. She graduated from C.U. Boulder in 2006 with a major in Environmental Studies, and a minor in Political Science. She went on to graduate from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon in 2011. In her current position, she assists in the development of regulations, policy and guidance for the NWRS, as well as, provides guidance to NWRS leadership, Regions, and field stations on a broad range of laws, regulations, and policy guiding natural resource management in the NWRS, including acting as the program lead for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). She also acts as a liaison with the Solicitor's Office and Department of Justice on legal issues, litigation support and policy development. She lives in Denver, CO with her partner and her 2 year old daughter where she enjoys doing anything outside and active in the mountains, travelling (in different times), cooking, and spending time with her family. She is looking forward to providing support to Alaska Refuges in the many complex policy and planning issues they face.

**Michael Young**

Arctic Council Wildfire Projects Coordinator, U.S. Department of State. Mike is a retired Foreign Service Officer who was brought back specifically to help coordinate projects by the Arctic Council that deal with wildfires in the Arctic. He previously served as the U.S. Head of Delegation to the Arctic Council's Sustainable Development Working Group from 2013-15. Other assignments include Toronto, Mexico City, Kabul, Washington DC, and Colorado Springs. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Mike was a Surface Warfare Officer and nuclear engineer with the U.S. Navy.



Emily Yurcich

Conservation Planner. Branch of Conservation Planning and Policy. USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System, Alaska. I am new to the Service and AK Region. My graduate research focused on the role of prescribed fire and fuel treatments in restoring vegetation, soil and fuel bed conditions in semidesert grasslands and mixed conifer forests.

